Drinking water proposals submitted by Gujarat Government

1457. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been acute shortage of water in Saurashtra region of Gujarat for a long time;

(b) whether the Gujarat Goverment has sent a number of proposals involving Rs. 950 crores to overcome the shortage;

(c) if so, the details of the schemes submitted by the State Government and of those approved so far; and

(d) the details of the schemes pending for approval and sanction of funds in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The State Government had forwarded a project profile, with an estimated cost of Rs. 946 crore for safe drinking water supply for rural and urban areas for seeking financial assistance under French credit. The State Government was requested in October, 1996 to provide certain clarification. The Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment was also requested to give their comments/approval for urban centres.

The State Government is reported to have sent on 24.2.97 the project profile of nine schemes for seeking external assistance. These projects are to be examined and processed. The State Government has sent two more projects for drinking water supply in the fluoride areas of, Kaira district for Central assistance under the Sub-Mission Programme of Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission. These projects are under Technical scrutiny.

Scientific Departments Occupied by IAS Officers

1458. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of top level jobs in the scientific departments are at present occupied by IAS officers who do not possess the requisite qualifications;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, department-wise; and

(c) whether the scientists forum has protested against such practice; if so, whether Government have undertaken any study of the implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) It is not a fact that a large number of top level jobs in the scientific departments are at present occupied by IAS officers.

Government have seen a communication dated 3.2.97 from the DST Scientific Officers' Forum in which, interalia, it has been mentioned that quite a few of the scientific departments are headed by generalist IAS officers. This is not borne out of facts.

Setting up of councils for science and Technology Programmes

1459. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the councils set up by each State so far on the lines of National council for Science and Technology;

(b) whether it is a fact that such Councils are an important factor in the advancement of scientific research and technology; and

(c) whether Government have emphasised to the State Governments to set up such councils for the betterment of Sci-